



## Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida

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### **“Liquid Muse: Paintings from the St. Johns Region” Art Exhibition at the Northwest Florida Regional Airport**

#### ***Eglin AFB, Florida – VALPARAISO, FL... FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Valparaiso, FL... The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida is pleased to announce the opening of the *Liquid Muse: Paintings from the St. Johns Region* art exhibition at Northwest Florida Regional Airport. The exhibit showcasing the paintings of 35 Florida artists who live and work in the 15 county area that comprise the watershed of the St. Johns River. The exhibition organized by the City of Gainesville will run from June 5 – July 25, 2009. *Liquid Muse: Paintings from the St. Johns Region* was co-curated by Gainesville art historian Mallory O'Connor and DeLand writer/photographer Gary Monroe. Funding was provided in part by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council and Alachua Conservation Trust. A VIP reception is planned for Tuesday, June 30, 2009 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Following its stay in Okaloosa County, *Liquid Muse: Paintings from the St. Johns Region* will complete its 2009 tour. Other participating venues include: The Museum of Florida Art in DeLand; the Alexander Brest Museum, Jacksonville; The Museum of Florida History and Natural Science, Tallahassee; and the Florida School of the Arts Gallery, St. Johns River Community College, Palatka.

The ecological, historical and cultural characteristics of the St. Johns River combine to make it one of America's most unique waterways. For over 10,000 years, people have lived, worked, traveled and dreamed on or alongside the St. Johns, and its recorded history is among the oldest in the North America. Because of the river's cultural and historical significance, the St. Johns was officially designated an American Heritage River on July 30, 1998, one of only fourteen rivers nationwide to receive this recognition. This designation provided a unique opportunity to mount an exhibition focusing on the river's ecological, cultural and historic role in order to call attention to the need for natural resource and environmental protection, economic revitalization, and historic and cultural preservation. The 35 paintings included in the exhibit explore the river region's historic, cultural, and ecological role as well as celebrating the beauty and charm of the watershed area. Because so much of the St. Johns River valley is undergoing intense development, it is essential to educate the public about the economic and other benefits of preserving this historically significant area and its resources. Documenting the many beautiful and fascinating images of the river region will make people aware of the reasons why this rich and historic region like many other throughout the State of Florida should be preserved so that it can continue to inspire and enchant Floridians in the years to come.

The exhibiting artists include: Kate Barnes, Mr. B, Eleanor Blair, Peter Carolin, Jerry Cutler, Rainey Dimmitt, Jim Draper, Cynthia Edmonds, Heidi Edwards, Pam Griesinger, Rene Guerin, Spence Guerin, Tom Hundesmarck, Blake Harrison, Brenda Hofreiter, Maury Hurt, Carl Knickerbocker, Sydney McKenna, Kevin McNamara, Arnold Mesches, Larry Moore, Bunny Morgan, Theodore Morris, Hansen Mulford, John A. O'Connor, Tim Peterson, Dean Quigley, Gene Roberds, Tom Sadler, Sean Sexton, Trish Thompson, Margaret Tolbert, Allison Watson, Margaret Watts and Hope White.

*The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida serves to preserve and promote local, regional and Florida State history and culture. The museum is located at 115 Westview Avenue in Valparaiso, FL 32580. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, or by appointment. The museum is closed for observed holidays. For additional information, please contact Michael Weech, Project Coordinator at (850) 678-2615 or go to [www.heritage-museum.org](http://www.heritage-museum.org)*